

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 108

11 February 1944

Target: City area, Frankfurt, Germany (PFF)

Crews Dispatched: 21

Crew Members Lost or Wounded: 1 KIA, 7 injured

Length of Mission: 8 hours

Bomb Load: 6 or 12 x 500 lb G.P. bombs

Bombing Altitude: 25,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 1,370 rounds

Frankfurt was bombed for the fourth time since 29 January 1944. Six of the 21 aircraft airborne were abortive:

#42-37875, *Empress of D Street*, 427BS-A (**Sullivan**), engine failure.

#42-5081, *Luscious Lady*, 427BS-V (**McGarry**), fuel line broke in bomb bay tank.

#42-31616, *Spirit of Flak Wolf*, 427BS-U (**Harrison**), ball turret oxygen.

#42-31177, *Lonesome Polecat*, 359BS-L (**Hybert**), two engines failed.

#42-37893, *Bam Bam*, 358BS-D (**Taylor**), lost formation.

#42-31386, *Sky Duster*, 359BS-W (**Hanselman**), No. 4 engine ran rough.

Fourteen aircraft attacked Frankfurt with 16 1/2 tons of 500-lb. A.N. M43 bombs. Nine tons were jettisoned. Three aircraft carried long-delay fuses. Strike attack photos showed the bombing from 25,000 feet to be poor. One cluster of bombs fell seven miles southwest of the city causing no damage and another group fell two miles northeast of the city in a sparsely settled residential area.

P-47s escorted bombers on penetration, P-51s and P-38s provided target support, and P-47s and RAF Spitfires escorted the B-17s on withdrawal. Approximately six to eight enemy fighters were seen. No attacks were made on the 303rd BG(H) and no enemy aircraft claims were made. Flak at the target was moderate and accurate. Chaff was discharged from the vicinity of the IP until two minutes past the target. Crews reported it as effective, but the flak continued after the formation left the target. Rockets from the ground were seen just after leaving the target, but went far above the formation with no explosions observed.

Ten aircraft returned to Molesworth after completing the mission. Four aircraft sustained major damage and five sustained minor damage. *Nero* #42-39807, 358BS-Y (Lt. **Shoup**), landed at Chippingham Ongar with the No. 4 engine out and the horizontal elevator and stabilizer badly damaged. *Nero* was grounded, unable to fly, and the crew was transported back to Molesworth.

Lonesome Polecat #42-31177, 359BS-L (Lt. **Hybert**), landed at Shoreham with two engines out. #42-31562 (*No Name*), 358BS-A (Lt. **Watson**), landed at Ford, refueled and returned to Molesworth.



Big A Bird #42-39810 aka Special Delivery

Big A Bird #42-39810, 358BS-E, piloted by 2Lt. Joe **Worthley**, had numerous problems. Two engines were shot out a few seconds after bombs away. They were unable to keep up with the formation or maintain altitude. None of their gun turrets had power. Fortunately they had no enemy fighters around. Knowing that they had a fuel shortage they tried to reach the RAF emergency field at West Malling. They assumed crash landing positions in the radio room since they were too low to bail out.

The two remaining engines cut out and the Fortress went down through oak trees. The tail section remained in one of the trees, the No. 4 engine was torn off and the B-17 came to rest in the hop field of August **Pitt's** farm near Hosrmondon, Kent, England. S/Sgt. Edwin D. **Johnson**, engineer, was killed in the crash. Seven crewmen were injured: Lt. Joseph B. **Ratay** had a broken left leg, Lt. Eugene C. **Blum** had a broken left arm, S/Sgt. Harry R. **Egan**, had a broken right arm, Sgt. Grant W. **Vanderhoff** had a broken leg and face cuts, S/Sgt. Benjamin F. **Malherbe** fractured his right hip, Sgt. Ray I. **Robinson** had a dislocated hip and Sgt. Fred B. **Lawson** had a broken right leg. Lt. Kenneth D. **Crook**, the co-pilot, was not injured. He became a POW following the 24 February mission to Schweinfurt. The rest of the injured crewmen were sent back to the USA for rehabilitation. Pilot, 2Lt. Joe **Worthley**, flying with a different crew, was killed over Berlin on 24 May 1944 from a direct flak hit in the cockpit. He was on his 25th and last mission.



JOE R. WORTHLEY CREW - 358th BS

(crew assigned 358BS: 14 Nov 1943 - photo: 06 Dec 1943)

(Back L-R) Sgt Benjamin F. Malherbe (RWG), Lt Eugene C. Blum (B),
Lt Joseph B. Ratay (N), Lt Kenneth D. Crook (CP), 1Lt Joe R. Worthley (P)
(Front) Sgt Grant W. Vanderhoff (BT), T/Sgt Edwin D. Johnson (E-KIA),
T/Sgt Harry R. Egan (R), S/Sgt Fred B. Larson (TG); S/Sgt Ray I. Robinson (LWG)

Scorchy #42-31314, 359BS-M (Lt. **Dahleen**), landed at RAF Shoreham at Seam, Sussex, short on fuel. The brakes failed during landing and the runway was overshot. When it hit a guard room and the No. 4 gun post, it broke in half and the main fuselage crumpled. Three crewmen were injured and the others, with the exception of the pilot and co-pilot, sustained minor bruises and cuts: T/Sgt. **Titsworth**, left waist gunner, lacerated his upper lip and sustained a concussion; T/Sgt. **Malcolm**, engineer, dislocated his shoulder and S/Sgt. **Hirn**, ball turret gunner, wounded his right cheek.

Lt. Deane **Barnes**, pilot of *Buzz Blonde* 427BS-S said, "We didn't see where our bombs landed, but we could see through a hole in the clouds that we were over the target when the bombs were dropped. There were a few enemy fighters around, but our fighter cover was so perfect that the Germans couldn't get at us." Fighter cover was also praised by S/Sgt. Lowery **Weed**, top turret gunner of *Mizpah* who said, "We had everything under the sun for fighter escort. They didn't let anything come near us." "The flak wasn't as bad as last time," said Sgt. Andrew G. **Benevento**, radio operator on *Buzz Blonde*. We saw a few fighters, but they stayed down below us and wouldn't come up and mix with us at all." Lt. **Litman**, pilot of *Clover Leaf* 358BS-C, was critical of the last fighter support believed to be RAF Spitfires. He stated, "They were dog-fighting and fooling around among themselves. This action caused our crew undue suspense—believing that there were enemy aircraft present."

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Route Map

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

Mitchell-Dixon
PFF #42-3511 482BG/812BS

Litman
583

Worthley
810

Barnes
9875

Sullivan
7875

Wood
054

Henderson
052

McGarry
081

Harrison
616

Watson
562

Estes
158

Davis
PFF #42-30729 482BG/813BS

Taylor
893

Shoup
807

Hybert
177

Goolsby
854

Hanselman
386

Bech
483

Smith
Spare - 239

Dahleen
Spare - 314

Stuermer
Spare - 041

Edwards
050

McManus
405

Six (6) aircraft aborted this mission:

Lt. Sullivan in 7875	Lt. McGarry in 081
Lt. Harrison in 616	Lt. Hybert in 177
Lt. Taylor in 893	Lt. Hanselman in 386

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

<u>CREW POSITIONS</u> CMP - Command Pilot P - Pilot CP - Co-Pilot NAV - Navigator ANV - Ass't. Navigator MNV - Mickey Navigator ENG - Engineer BOM - Bombardier RO - Radio Operator	TOG - Toggler BT - Ball Turret Operator TT - Top Turret Operator TG - Tail Gunner NG - Nose Gunner RG - Radio Gunner WG - Waist Gunner LWG - Left Waist Gunner RWG - Right Waist Gunner GUN - Gunner	VI - Voice Interpreter OBS - Observer PAS - Passenger PHO - Photographer <u>RESULTS OF MISSION</u> KIA - Killed in action WIA - Wounded in action MIA - Missing in action POW - Prisoner of war	DOW - Died of wounds EVD - Evaded the enemy INT - Interned in neu cntry REP - Repatriated RES - Rescued ESC - Escaped BO - Bailed out DCH - Ditched CR-L - Crashed on land CR-S - Crashed at sea
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358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-31583 *Clover Leaf*

P	Litman, Arnold S., 1Lt
CP	Gorman, Quentin J., 2Lt
NAV	Merthan, Lawrence C., 2Lt
BOM	Armstrong, Charles C., 2Lt
ENG	Smith, George A., S/Sgt
RWG	Lawson, Tracy W., Sgt
RO	Ebbighausen, Francis R., T/Sgt
BT	Witherwax, Leon J., Sgt
TG	Castillo, Buenaventura L., S/Sgt
LWG	Miller, Victor R., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-37893 *Bam Bam*

P	Taylor, James B., 2Lt
CP	Hall, Charles M., 2Lt
NAV	Levy, Herbert E., 2Lt
BOM	Mack, Austin J., 2Lt
ENG	Jones, Douglas L., S/Sgt
BT	Kennard, Royal G., Sgt
RO	Dulin, Woodroe G., S/Sgt
RWG	Schweinebraten, Leslie H., Sgt
TG	Cox, James B., S/Sgt
LWG	Loveland, William H., Sgt

(Abortive)

B-17G #42-39810 *Big A Bird* CR-L

P	Worthley, Joe R., 2Lt	
CP	Crook, Kenneth D., 2Lt	
NAV	Ratay, Joseph B., 2Lt	WIA
BOM	Blum, Eugene C., 2Lt	WIA
ENG	Johnson, Edwin D., S/Sgt	KIA
BT	Vanderhoff, Grant W., Sgt	WIA
RO	Egan, Harry R., S/Sgt	WIA
RWG	Malherbe, Benjamin F., S/Sgt	WIA
TG	Lawson, Fred B., Sgt	WIA
LWG	Robinson, Ray I., Sgt	WIA

PFF B17F #42-3511 (No Name) (482BG)

P	Mitchell, Kirk R., Maj
N	Steeley, Hobart N., 1Lt
G	Burns, James R., 2Lt

B-17G #42-31562 (No Name)

P	Watson, Jack W., 2Lt
CP	Cook, John H., 2Lt
NAV	Connors, Edward B., 2Lt
BOM	Feinman, Milton, 2Lt
ENG	Hoffman, Robert W., S/Sgt
LWG	Hickey, Thomas P., Sgt
RO	Kistulentz, Paul, Sgt
BT	Gibbs, Paul M., Sgt
TG	McArthur, Robert G., Sgt
RWG	Daniel, Herbert A., Sgt

B-17G #42-38041 *Hell's Angels II*

P	Stuermer, John W., 2Lt
CP	Reynolds, Charles E., 2Lt
NAV	Tielman, William A., 2Lt
BOM	Newman, Clyde D., 2Lt
ENG	Harris, David W., S/Sgt
LWG	Rogers, Thomas A., Sgt
RO	Murray, Edward F., S/Sgt
BT	Stark, Joseph, Sgt
TG	Collins, Marvin B., Sgt
RWG	Carroll, Marvin A., Sgt

(Spare - Ret.)

B-17G #42-31239 (No Name)

P	Smith, Marshall L., 1Lt
CP	Palecek, Francis J., 2Lt
NAV	Neuwirth, Edward, 2Lt
BOM	Troy, Edward J., 2Lt
ENG	Dick, Andrew, T/Sgt
LWG	Schor, John, S/Sgt
RO	Frolick, Edwin J., S/Sgt
BT	Simon, Gustof J., S/Sgt
TG	Fugate, Walter O., S/Sgt
RWG	Stauter, Herman L., Sgt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-31314 *Scorchy*

P	Dahleen, Howard D., 1Lt
CP	Rice, Charles M., 2Lt
NAV	Klingensmith, Russell S., 2Lt
BOM	Gauthier, Raymond W., 2Lt
ENG	Malcolm, Orrick H., S/Sgt
RO	Swanson, Clifford E., T/Sgt
RWG	Smith, Harding W., S/Sgt
LWG	Titsworth, William E., S/Sgt
BT	Hirn, Edward M., S/Sgt
TG	Covington, Charles G., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-31483 *Bonnie B*

P	Bech, G. Neil, Jr., 1Lt
CP	Hall, Franklin M., 2Lt
NAV	Cotter, Edward R., 2Lt
BOM	Corbin, Frederick A., F/O
ENG	Sanelli, Floyd L., T/Sgt
RWG	Boatwright, Edward C., S/Sgt
RO	Dennis, Julian E., T/Sgt
BT	Johnson, Lawrence G., S/Sgt
LWG	Cundiff, Robert W., Sgt
TG	Cox, Elbert S., Jr., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-31405 *Wallaroo MK II*

P	McManus, Henry, F/O
CP	Bishop, Robert F., 2Lt
NAV	Carroll, Charles P., 2Lt
BOM	Cecot, Chester R., 2Lt
ENG	Row, Robert A., T/Sgt
RO	Colburn, Robert R., T/Sgt
RWG	Doezema, Albert, S/Sgt
LWG	Jewett, William B., S/Sgt
BT	Davies, John W., S/Sgt
TG	Cowles, Clifton G., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-31386 *Sky Duster*

P	Hanselman, Charles F., 1Lt
CP	Calwell, Lucien B., 2Lt
NAV	Ramsey, Elijah W., Jr., 1Lt
BOM	Livermore, William D., 2Lt
ENG	Fouss, Howard E., T/Sgt
LWG	Jaouen, Robert F., T/Sgt
RO	Zitzler, George A., T/Sgt
LWG	Armstrong, Keith N., S/Sgt
BT	Williams, Walter S., S/Sgt
TG	Tybuszewski, Mitchel J., S/Sgt
(Abortive)	

B-17G #42-39807 *Nero*

P	Shoup, Noel E., 1Lt
CP	Litherland, James, 2Lt
NAV	Howlett, Oscar D., 1Lt
BOM	Ulbricht, Walter E., 2Lt
ENG	Bragg, Ben W., T/Sgt
RWG	Gribble, Robert F., S/Sgt
RO	Harrison, Donald B., T/Sgt
LWG	Asvestos, Nick, S/Sgt
BT	Hostetter, William L., Jr., S/Sgt
TG	Ross, Harry C., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-5854 *Alley Oop* (360BS B17)

P	Goolsby, Billy M., 1Lt
CP	Savage, John N., 2Lt
NAV	Towberman, P.E., 2Lt
BOM	Marlatt, Ray G., 2Lt
ENG	Bumgarner, Donald, T/Sgt
LWG	Rothrock, Harry J., S/Sgt
RO	Greenhalgh, Chester W., T/Sgt
BT	Chraniuk, William, S/Sgt
TG	Strobel, William A., S/Sgt
RWG	Hermann, Kurt J., II, T/Sgt
PHO	Greene, William H., Jr., T/Sgt

B-17G #42-38050 *Thunderbird*

P	Edwards, Kenneth C., 2Lt
CP	Peterson, Edwin V., 2Lt
NAV	Sanders, Coleman, 2Lt
BOM	Anderson, Everett J., 2Lt
ENG	Johnson, Kenneth V., S/Sgt
RO	Kennedy, Herbert W., S/Sgt
BT	Guzman, Abel G., Sgt
LWG	Champagne, Adam, Sgt
TG	Kowalk, Francis H., Sgt
RWG	Abernathy, Fay S., Cpl

B-17G #42-31177 *Lonesome Polecat*

P	Hybert, Arthur J., 2Lt
CP	Harrison, Weldon O., 2Lt
NAV	Susskind, Harold A., 2Lt
BOM	Kelly, James H., Jr., 2Lt
ENG	Broderick, George V., S/Sgt
RO	Ratford, Edward V., S/Sgt
RWG	Gilcrease, Roland L., Sgt
BT	Jaehne, Charles R., S/Sgt
LWG	Neathery, Ralph P., S/Sgt
TG	Barmak, Paul J., S/Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)	

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-39875 *Buzz Blonde*

P	Barnes, Deane L., Lt
CP	Raistrick, Albert G., Lt
NAV	Randall, Everett Z., Lt
BOM	Roode, William A.T., Lt
ENG	Sparks, Willie T., T/Sgt
BT	Chancellor, John R., S/Sgt
RO	Benevento, Andrew G., S/Sgt
TG	Underwood, Clifford B., S/Sgt
LWG	Winters, Craig W., S/Sgt
RWG	Price, John B., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-3158 *Max*

P	Estes, Shirley W., Lt
CP	Byers, Ballard T., Lt
NAV	Shemwell, John T., Lt
BOM	Minter, Thomas W., Lt
ENG	Price, Jack J., S/Sgt
BT	Wiley, Nathan H., Sgt
RO	Wagner, Wayne, S/Sgt
TG	Werner, William T.L., Sgt
RWG	Silrum, Orvis K., Sgt
LWG	Ross, Samuel C., Sgt

B-17F #42-5081 *Luscious Lady*

P	McGarry, John J., Jr., Lt
CP	Cotham, Willie C., Lt
NAV	Halligan, Robert W., Lt
BOM	Foe, Kenneth D., Lt
ENG	Grace, Henry J., S/Sgt
BT	Friedman, Ira, Sgt
RO	Wilson, Elmer A., S/Sgt
TG	Kowalonek, Walter A., Sgt
LWG	Brown, Edgar S., Sgt
RWG	Hilborn, Ervin, Sgt

(Abortive)

B-17G #42-37875 *Empress of D Street*

P	Sullivan, Francis X., Lt
CP	Brangwin, Kenneth R., Lt
NAV	Culpin, John J., Jr., Lt
BOM	Bawol, Walter S., Lt
ENG	Frey, James L., S/Sgt
BT	Latta, Thomas B., T/Sgt
RO	Sullivan, James J., T /Sgt
TG	Stone, Vernon W., S/Sgt
RWG	Swanson, Charles A., S/Sgt
LWG	Keely, Eugene F., S/Sgt

(Abortive)

B-17F #42-5052 *Mizpah*

P	Henderson, Grover C., Lt
CP	Sayers, Darwin D., Lt
NAV	Arvanites, George L., Lt
BOM	Umphress, F.E., Jr., Lt
ENG	Weed, L.A., Jr., S/Sgt
BT	Teno, James R., S/Sgt
RO	Cohen, Leo, T/Sgt
TG	LaFrenier, James E., S/Sgt
RWG	Wright, Edgar A., S/Sgt
LWG	Kotel, Tofil P., Sgt
PHO	Mulberry, Harold F., Sgt

B-17G #42-31616 *Spirit of Flak Wolf*

P	Harrison, Emmittes S., Jr., Lt
CP	Basteau, Stephen B., Lt
NAV	Kurnik, Walter F., Lt
BOM	Biedanski, Edmund J., Lt
ENG	Rombach, Joseph H., S/Sgt
BT	Plante, Royal F., S/Sgt
RO	Volmer, Lawrence O., T/Sgt
TG	Vateckas, Coster R., S/Sgt
LWG	Campbell, Kenneth H., S/Sgt
RWG	Hawk, Kenneth L., S/Sgt

(Abortive)

(360BS B17)

B-17F #42-5054 *Belle of San Joaquin*

P	Wood, Vere A., Lt
CP	Knutson, Wilmer A., Lt
NAV	Pinnette, William S., Lt
BOM	Brown, Thomas G., Lt
ENG	Snider, Otto L., S/Sgt
BT	Grant, Thomas V., S/Sgt
RO	Brooks, Winnie R., S/Sg
TG	Helton, Edward, Sgt
RWG	Heathershaw, Charles L., Sgt
LWG	Tevis, John E., S/Sgt